

To whom it may concern,

As a customer of an independent ISP, I'm concerned that if this petition is granted, the way independent ISPs do business with large telecom providers will be affected negatively.

I appreciate many features of independent ISPs, which I fear would be lost if Internet connectivity were rolled up into a big telecom company. With an independent ISP, I enjoy personalized, knowledgeable technical support. I get expert replies to technical questions within minutes. I really do not think this would happen if I were to email a telecom's front-line support crew.

An independent ISP is also freer to deliver services to customers outside of big telecoms' marketing packages, which are designed for a massive swath of customers. For example, if I require a few static IP addresses, an independent ISP is likely to be able to provide these. I suspect a telecom will want to upgrade me to a "business" Internet service.

In short, I think this petition could harm independent ISPs, which I believe provide valuable personalized service and support.

Sincerely,
Russell O. Iwanchuk